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# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

**24-Hour Report** 

3 August 2016

## (U) NATIONAL

# (U) District of Columbia - Metro Police Officer Arrested on Terrorism Charges

(U) Washington – A Metro Transit police officer has been arrested and charged with attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Nicholas Young of Fairfax, was arrested this morning at Metropolitan Police Headquarters. Last week, according to an indictment filed in Alexandria federal court, a law enforcement source convinced Young to send him codes for mobile messaging cards that Young believed would be used by Islamic State fighters overseas to communicate. SOURCE: 3 August 2016, The Washington Post

#### (U) Florida – Zika Spreading Mosquitoes are Becoming More Resistant to Common Pesticides

(U) Miami – Health officials working to contain Zika outbreak in northern Miami are now investigating whether the Zika-spreading mosquitoes have become resistant to common pesticides used to combat the insect, as studies suggest has been the case in other parts of the world. Currently, 14 people have been found to be infected with the Zika virus from mosquito bites in a 1-square-mile area in northern Miami, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mosquito control measures were implemented after four people were found infected with Zika in July, but health officials said on Monday those initial mosquito control measures were not enough.

SOURCE: 2 August 2016, ABC News

#### (U) New York - Man Pleads Guilty in \$30M Computer Hacking Scheme

(U) Brooklyn – A Georgia man has pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge, admitting participating in a computer hacking scheme that generated \$30 million in illegal profits. Leonid Momotok of Suwanee, Georgia, entered the plea yesterday in Brooklyn federal court. US Attorney Robert Capers said Momotok and a group of traders stole secrets by hacking into three business newswires to snatch information from unpublished press releases.

SOURCE: 2 August 2016, <u>Associated Press</u>

## (U) INTERNATIONAL

## (U) China – Bitcoin worth \$72M Stolen from Hong Kong Exchange

(U) Hong Kong – Nearly 120,000 units of digital currency bitcoin worth about US\$72 million was stolen from the exchange platform Bitfinex in Hong Kong, rattling the global bitcoin community in the second-biggest security breach ever of such an exchange. Bitfinex is the world's largest dollar-based exchange for bitcoin, and is known in the digital currency community for having deep liquidity in the U.S. dollar/bitcoin currency pair.

SOURCE: 3 August 2016, Reuters

# (U) Czech Republic - Man Charged with Attempted Terrorism

(U) Prague – A 25-year-old mechanic and loner from a small Czech town, who tried to travel to Syria in January, was charged yesterday with attempted terrorism, in what the authorities said was the first known case of a Czech citizen trying to join ISIL. "This is the first time a Czech citizen has been charged

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with this crime," said David Unger, a spokesman for the regional court in Plzen, in the western Czech Republic, which will rule on the next steps of the man's detention on Thursday. The case has stirred anxieties that homegrown Islamic radicalism may have migrated to Eastern and Central Europe. SOURCE: 2 August 2016, The New York Times

# (U) Italy – Italy Would Consider any US Request to use Sicily Air Base for Libya Strikes

(U) Sicily – Italy would consider allowing the United States to use the Sigonella air base in Sicily for strikes against ISIL in Libya if asked, Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni said yesterday. The two NATO allies had agreed in February that Italy would only allow the US to conduct "defensive" strikes from there. US planes bombed ISIL targets in Libya on Monday, at the request of the UN-backed government in Tripoli, to help push militants from their former stronghold of Sirte. US officials said this was the start of a sustained campaign.

SOURCE: 2 August 2016, Reuters

## (U) Syria – First Responders Claim Helicopter Dropped Gas on Civilians

(U) Damascus – Activists and emergency responders claimed yesterday that dozens of people were injured after a helicopter dropped canisters of toxic gas on rebel-held territory in northern Syria. The Syrian Civil Defence group said the attack was carried out in the northern city of Saraqeb on Monday night, near to where a Russian helicopter was shot down earlier in the day. A spokesman for the organization said 33 people — including 18 women and 10 children — were taken to hospital showing "signs of severe respiratory distress."

SOURCE: 2 August 2016, NBC News

## (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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